

How Do We Get Around? A Student-"Driven" Transportation Activity

Objective: To discover the common and not-so-common transportation choices in your community.

Materials: A writing utensil and a sheet of paper

* NOTE: This exercise was adapted from Activity 1.A in the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's (NESEA) "Getting Around Clean and Green" transportation curriculum; it has been published with NESEA's permission. This activity was an *en route* homework assignment for participants at MEEP's Transportation and the Environment workshop this past November.

Instructions:

Part 1: Survey your own transportation habits. Over the course of one week, use the chart below to calculate the total number of trips you have made using several different forms (or *modes*) of transportation:

Day	Car	Bus	Train	Bike	Walk	Other
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday						
TOTAL						

Part 2: Now survey the transportation habits of others! Choose a street near your home that has a lot of automobile traffic. Over the course of one hour, count the total number of cars with only one passenger in them and the total number of cars with more than one passenger in them (you may need a sheet of paper for this). Record your results in the table below and compute the percentages:

TOTAL NUMBER OF CARS COUNTED	NUMBER OF CARS WITH 1 PASSENGER	NUMBER OF CARS WITH >1 PASSENGER	PERCENTAGE OF CARS WITH 1 PASSENGER	PERCENTAGE OF CARS WITH >1 PASSENGER

Part 3: Consider the following questions:

- What is your preferred mode of transportation in Part 1? Why? What environmental impacts does your preferred mode of transportation have? Could you have combined any of those trips to save energy?
- What percentage of the cars in Part 2 carried more than one passenger? Were you surprised at your results? How do your percentages compare with those of your classmates'?
- What could your community do to encourage its citizens to carpool, ride a bus, or walk?